

Will the broadcast flag interfere with consumers ability to make copies of DTV content for their personal use, either on personal video recorders or removable media?

It is my belief that any such implementation at the hardware level, or any other for that matter, would severely infringe upon the rights of consumers to utilize the equipment they purchase for legal, personal uses.

Would the digital flag interfere with consumers ability to send DTV content across networks, such as home digital networks connecting digital set top boxes, digital recorders, digital servers and digital display devices? As above, it is my firm belief that the broadcast flag will interfere with the rights of consumers.

Would the broadcast flag requirement limit consumers ability to use their existing electronic equipment (equipment not built to look for the flag) or make it difficult to use older components with new equipment that is compliant with the broadcast flag standard?

Existing equipment would most likely not be affected by such a flag, in this point I agree with the proponents of the broadcast flag, however, this is not the issue. To limit the abilities of future equipment would only discourage consumers from purchasing new such equipment, the result of which being far worse than "piracy".

Would a broadcast flag requirement limit the development of future equipment providing consumers with new options?

Certainly. This process, while simple sounding to law makers, is actually quite an undertaking. It's design, integration and implementation will cost companies large amounts of time and money, which could be better spent improving technology, not limiting it.

What will be the cost impact, if any, that a broadcast flag requirement would have on consumer electronics equipment?

As I stated above, I believe the implementation will increase the cost of technology required to have it. The additional cost hit is less obvious, but sales will drop dramatically. Consumers will keep their old, more functional equipment for much longer rather than buying newer, less functional and frankly impotent equipment. This combined with higher prices mandated by government will cost the industry quite a bit of money.

Other Comments:

The broadcast flag is an attempt by special interests in music, movies and television to tell consumers what they can and cannot do with equipment they purchased, paid for, and own. This control they wish to impose, through the "funding" of political interests, is at a direct expense to the consumer, and should not be implemented.

*** I will personally severely curtail my spending in the technology industry if this is implemented. ***